

# Rhode Island Open Space Grant Awards

*August 24, 2005*

- **Warwick Land Trust:** \$100,000 grant toward the purchase of 7.4 acres on Sapdina Avenue and Coldwell Street on Conimicut Point adjacent to Conimicut Point Park. The land, valued at \$650,000, is a grassy saltmarsh, a valuable wetland habitat, capable of supporting wildlife such as spring peepers, gray treefrogs, fox, swans, and eastern box turtles. The land will be available for passive recreation such as birdwatching and other wildlife study. Contact person: Richard Crenca, Warwick Senior Planner, at 738-2000.
- **Burrillville Land Trust:** \$169,400 grant toward the purchase of the 82-acre Schofield/Gillis property on Jackson Schoolhouse Road in Pascoag, adjacent to both DEM's George Washington Management Area and privately held protected open space. The forested land, valued at \$320,000, includes a trout stream, wetlands, glacial boulders, and rocky outcroppings. The property, which was the home of the town's first tree farm and includes a pond that was once used for the town's ice hockey practice rink, will be used for passive recreation and cultural and historical education. Contact person: Paul A. Roselli, vice president of the Burrillville Land Trust, at 568-5781.
- **Foster Land Trust:** \$96,750 grant toward the purchase of the 158-acre Schneider property on Tom Wood Road, contiguous with three other properties totaling about 280 acres that are being acquired for open space. The property, prime forest interior habitat, is part of an 1800-acre forest block without vehicular roads, and includes upland hardwood forest and a headwater wetland to the Moosup River. The land, home to ovenbirds and hermit thrush that thrive in forest interiors also includes 2,000 feet of frontage along the North-South Trail, which can be reached by RI Public Transit Authority bus. The property will be used for passive recreation and scientific study, and side-loop trails will be created off the North-South Trail. Contact person: Linda Los Tibbetts, at 647-7160.
- **Town of Charlestown:** \$27,125 grant toward the purchase of 17 acres on Old Post Road in the heart of the Historic Village District next to the Cross Mills Public Library. The property, primarily an Atlantic White cedar swamp, is capable of supporting the Hessel's Hairstreak Butterfly, a species of concern, as noted in *Rare Native Animals of Rhode Island*. Town officials envision wildlife walking trails, and boardwalks, that will create pedestrian connections within the village. Contact person: James Lamphere, Charlestown Town Planner, at 364-1225.
- **Glocester Land Trust:** \$300,000 toward the purchase of 86 acres of the Kwandrans property on Putnam Pike in West Glocester, located next to the West Glocester Elementary School and close to three DEM properties: the Durfee Hill Management Area, the George Washington Management Area, and Pulaski Park. The land contains a diversity of natural communities and wildlife species representative of southern New England. A few trails crisscross the property, which is primarily unfragmented and consists of oak and pine forest, streams, wetlands, and an open field. More than 40 species of birds have been observed on

the property, half of them migratory species. One or two pairs of Yellow-rumped warblers, which were seen on only 10 locations statewide in 1992, are nesting on the property, and many types of butterflies and dragonflies are active in the open field. Protection of the property will result in preserving unfragmented forests and their associated nesting birds, territories and corridors for medium to large sized mammals — the owners think they have seen both a bobcat and a fisher on the property —, good quality streams, and water resources in the Town of Gloucester. The property will be used for passive recreation such as hiking, birding, and photography, and for cross-country skiing. Contact person: Michael Gray, Chairman, Gloucester Land Trust, at 423-7220.

###